

Application No.: 10/519,851
Amendment Dated: November 9, 2006
Reply to Office Action of: August 10, 2006

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawing includes changes to Figure 16. This sheet replaces the original sheet.

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Remarks/Arguments:

Figure 16 was objected to because it was not designated as "Prior Art." The appropriate correction has been made to Figure 16.

Claims 1-17 and 20-25 are pending in the above-identified application. Claim 24 is cancelled. Claims 18 and 19 were withdrawn from consideration. New claims 26 and 27 have been added.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection in view of the amendments to claim 1.

Claims 22-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. With regard to claims 22-23 and 25, Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection in view of the amendments to these claims. With regard to claim 24, the rejection is moot due to the cancellation of claim 24.

Claims 1-10, 12, 13/10, 13/12, 14/16, 20-23 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable in view of Koji et al and Applicants Admitted Prior Art (AAPA). Claim 1 is amended to include,

... the signals have same contents but are **compressed in a plurality of different bit rates** ...

... wherein the decoding unit decodes said signals **according to a selected bit rate of said plurality of different bit rates** from said point of interruption in time. (Emphasis added).

Basis for these amendments may be found in the specification at page 25, line 23 to page 26, line 4; page 26, line 18 to page 27, line 4 and Figure 1. Neither Koji et al., AAPA, nor their combination disclose or suggest compressing the signals in a plurality of different bit rates and decoding the signals selected bit rate of said plurality of different bit rates from said point of interruption in time, as recited in claim 1.

As shown at Figure 16, AAPA includes a compressing section 301, which compresses the video and audio signals into a single bit rate. Although the compressing section 301 can choose from more than one bit rate, it can only compress the video and audio signals into one bit rate. In contrast, in the exemplary embodiment of Applicant's invention shown at Figure 1, the video and audio signals are compressed at an MPEG2 bit rate by compressing section 101 and the same video and audio signals are compressed at an MPEG4 bit rate by compressing section 103.

As shown at Figure 16, AAPA also includes a decoding section 311, which decodes the compressed video and audio signals according to a single bit rate. The decoding section 311 does not select from a plurality of bit rates. Rather, the decoding section 311 decodes according to the bit rate at which the signals were compressed. In contrast, in the exemplary embodiment of Applicant's invention shown at Figure 1, the video and audio signals are decoded according to a selected bit rate of the plurality of different bit rates at which the signals were decoded. For example, when the MPEG2 program stream is picked up, it is decoded by MPEG2 decoding section 111. Alternatively, when the MPEG4 program stream is picked up, it is decoded by MPEG4 decoding section 113.

Koji et al. sets a reproduction start part without the need of operating at the time of reproducing the following part of video signals reproduced halfway. Koji et al. does not disclose or suggest compressing the signals in a plurality of different bit rates and decoding the signals selected bit rate of said plurality of different bit rates from said point of interruption in time, as recited in claim 1. Because neither Koji et al., AAPA, nor their combination disclose or suggest the features of claim 1, claim 1 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Koji et al. and AAPA. Claims 2-10, 12-13 and 14-15 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, claims 2-10, 12-13 and 14-15 are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Koji et al. and AAPA.

With regard to claim 20, claim 20 while not identical to claim 1, includes features similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1. Thus, claim 20 is also allowable over the art of record for reasons similar to those set forth above with regard

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to claim 1. Claims 21 and 22 depend from claim 20. Accordingly, claims 21 and 22 are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Koji et al. and AAPA.

With regard to claim 25, claim 25 has been amended to recite, "wherein signals having same contents are compressed in a plurality of different bit rates." As described above, neither Koji et al., AAPA, nor their combination disclose or suggest compressing the signals in a plurality of different bit rates. Thus, claim 25 is also allowable over the art of record for the reasons for reasons similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1.

With regard to claim 23, claim 23 has been amended to depend from new claim 26, which is described below.

Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by AAPA. Claim 16 is amended to include,

...signals that have same contents but are **compressed in a plurality of different bit rates...** (Emphasis added).

Basis for these amendments may be found in the specification at page 25, line 23 to page 26, line 4 and Figure 1. As described above, AAPA, does not disclose or suggest compressing the signals in a plurality of different bit rates. As shown at Figure 16, AAPA includes a compressing section 301, which compresses the video and audio signals into a single bit rate. Because AAPA does not disclose or suggest the features of claim 16, claim 16 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of AAPA.

New method claim 26 has been added. With regard to claim 26, claim 26 while not identical to claim 16, includes features similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 16. Thus, claim 26 is also allowable over the art of record for reasons similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 16. Applicants have also added a new method claim 27 that is more specific.

The Examiner indicated in the Office Action that claims 11, 13/11 and 17 would be allowable if amended to be independent and to include all of the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Because, as described above, claims 1 and

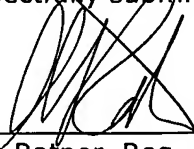
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16 are in condition for allowance, no amendment to claims 11, 13/11 and 17 is needed.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this Application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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DDF/ddf/bj/fp

Attachment: Figure 16 (1 sheet)

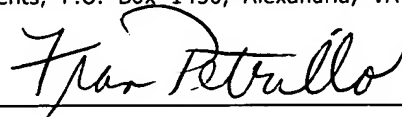
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